

## **Remove from UM Investments Companies Producing Goods or Services in Illegal Settlements on Occupied Land**

WHEREAS the occupying power in a foreign territory is prohibited from moving its own population onto land that is occupied ([Article 49, Geneva Convention IV](#)); and,

WHEREAS segregated communities established by the occupying power on occupied land in violation of the Geneva Conventions are commonly referred to as “illegal settlements”; and,

WHEREAS the International Court of Justice has confirmed that settlements established in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention are in “breach of international law,” ([ICJ Advisory Opinion 2004](#)); and,

WHEREAS the United Methodist Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights” ([¶ 717, The Book of Discipline 2012](#)); and,

WHEREAS the United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is a founding signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment, through which signatories agree to consider environmental and social, as well as governance issues in investment decisions. ([www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org)); and,

WHEREAS our Social Principles declare, “We denounce as immoral an ordering of life that perpetuates injustice and impedes the pursuit of peace.” (UMC Social Principles, “The World Community”); and,

WHEREAS General Conference 2012 passed a resolution calling on all nations “to prohibit any financial support by individuals or organizations for the construction and maintenance of settlements; and the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.” (Resolution #6111, UM Book of Resolutions, 2012); and,

WHEREAS the Hague Conventions of 1907 clearly forbid exploitation of the natural resources of an occupied people; and

WHEREAS settlement companies often exploit resources in occupied territories by mining, diverting water and polluting agricultural land; and,

WHEREAS a business operating in an illegal settlement pays taxes to the settlement and strengthens its economic base, takes advantage of land unlawfully seized from others, and is complicit in the occupying power’s violations of human rights and international law,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Conference 2016 calls on the General Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church to remove from their portfolios companies producing goods or services in illegal settlements on occupied land.

Date: October 6, 2015